

ABSTRACT

The invention concerns a procedure for logging a user into a data processing device with an operating system and a data processing program. In a first step, data for authenticating a user is entered, in a second step an identity and access rights are determined based upon the authentication data and in a third step access is provided for the application program and / or for sensitive data based on the defined access rights. In accordance with the invention, the steps are independent from starting the operating system or the data processing applications. In an especially advantageous version of the invention, a user switch can be performed by logging a user out and logging another user in while retaining the application context, i.e., user interface and current processing data.